



***Sacramento and  
Birmingham  
July-August 2022***



***Bob and Molly Hillery***

# ***Sacramento and Birmingham, July-August 2022***

## ***Sacramento, July 2022***

### ***Friday July 29***

We were up at 5:00 after spending the night at the airport Marriott as we had a 7:15 flight to Los Angeles. The flight left about 45 minutes late and was a little bouncy for much of the way. We did get a good breakfast, and arrived at LAX with plenty of time to spend over an hour in the lounge before our onward flight to Sacramento. This flight left and arrived a little early, so we were able to get to our hotel in Roseville by about 2pm.

We both went for walks in the 92F heat and then relaxed until dinner with Christopher, Cyndi and Sammy at a nearby Mimi's. We were together for about two hours and returned to the hotel about 9pm – and promptly retired.

### ***Saturday July 30***

We were up about 8:30 and drove to a nearby Starbucks for coffee and a pastry. We then went for our walks (better in the morning than in the heat of the day) before meeting everyone for lunch at Panera close to Sammy's skating rink where she had spent the morning. We enjoyed a two hour lunch followed by another hour at an ice cream parlor close to the hotel. We returned to our room at 4pm and relaxed until dinner time. Tonight, we ate at the India Oven in the nearby mall. We had another good meal, celebrating Father's Day – and a good chat for about two hours. We retired about 10:30.

### ***Sunday July 31***

We were up about 7:30 and drove to Starbucks for coffee and a pastry. After that we went for our walks before meeting everyone for lunch at MOD Pizza near to Christopher's home. We had another long chat and then returned to the hotel for the afternoon before meeting again at 7pm for dinner. Tonight, we ate at Fire and Flame, a Brazilian restaurant close to the hotel. Had several meats, all of which were excellent and we all enjoyed our final two hours together for this visit.

### ***Monday August 1***

We were up before eight and checked in out by about 8:30. We had breakfast at the Window Box Café, a diner close to the hotel that we had found on our last visit. Then we drove to the airport, returned the car and checked in for our flight to Salt Lake City. We had over an hour in the airport before our 1:15 flight and almost two hours in the lounge at SLC before our onward flight to Cincinnati. This was very bumpy for the first hour but then smoothed out so that dinner could be served.

We arrived at CVG at 11pm and got the shuttle to the Marriott where we were spending the night before driving to Birmingham.

## ***Birmingham, August 2022***

### ***Tuesday August 2***

We were up about 8:30 and had breakfast in the lounge before starting our drive about ten. It was a very pleasant trip to Nashville (one stop for coffee in Elizabethtown) and we arrived at our hotel before 2pm Central Time. I went for a 2.6 mile walk in the 96F heat and then we relaxed until dinner.

Tonight, we ate at Del Frisco's in Nashville. We had eaten at one of their locations last year and had enjoyed it but I made a mistake in making the reservation and this was a different spot. However, it was a very good meal and we decided that we will go to the Brentwood location on our way home.

### ***Wednesday August 3***

We were up at 8:30 and packed before driving to breakfast at Liz's Kitchen, quite close to the hotel. It was much larger inside than it looked and we had a very enjoyable (and hot) breakfast.

We then drove through Nashville on I-65 (very busy and almost got sandwiched when the guy in front decided he wanted to exit from the fourth lane) but once we were out of the metropolitan area it was another very nice drive to Birmingham (200 miles). We arrived around 2pm, were disappointed to find the local Starbucks closed, but I had chance for a walk before a very early dinner. We met Celia, Ashlyn, her parents (Julie and Kirk) and her sister Rachel at Samurai Japan where we had a two-hour meal and a very pleasant conversation. We were back at the hotel by 8pm but had arranged to meet Celia and Ashlyn for breakfast tomorrow before we leave for our return journey.



### ***Thursday August 4***

We left the hotel shortly after 8:30 and met Celia and Ashlyn for breakfast at First Watch. It was a lovely way to spend an hour and a half before starting our drive to Nashville. This was an easy 200 mile drive up I-65 North and we were checked in the Spring Hill Suites in Brentwood by about 2pm. After a cup of coffee in the room, I went for a walk.

Tonight we ate at the Del Frisco's just a couple of miles from the hotel and had a very enjoyable dinner and chat.



### ***Friday August 5***

We checked out about 8:30 and drove just a couple of miles to the Puffy Muffin, in the same area as Del Frisco's. We had a good breakfast before starting our drive along I-65 North. At Goodlettsville we pulled off the expressway for about 30 as a very heavy shower passed through the area. After that, we had rain on and off for the rest of the day as we drove north and then east along the Cumberland Parkway – a much quieter toad than the expressway but still a divided highway. At Glasgow we stopped for a light lunch and then continued on the Parkway until we turned north on US 127. We were there at the time of

the "World's Largest Yard Sale" and almost every yard for the next fifty miles was filled with "stuff" for sale. Clearly, many of the sites were a collaboration between several (many?) homes and it was obvious from the crowds that every one was identified on some master plan. The route covers over 700 miles from just north of Birmingham, AL to Ann Arbor, MI and lasts for five days.

We left US 127 and headed east on US 27 until the outskirts of Lexington and then around the outer belt to our hotel, where we arrived about 5pm (Eastern Time). I went for a short walk (the rain had stopped as we checked in) and then we got ready for dinner at Coles in Downtown Lexington. As on our previous visits, this was an excellent meal in pleasant surroundings.

### ***Saturday August 6***

We checked out of the Fairfield and went to breakfast at a local café, Wild eggs. This reminded us of the Half Day café in Mason and was equally good. We then drove directly home, arriving before noon after a very pleasant trip visiting kids and grandchildren.



